



Eliot Cohen

Joseph J. Kruzel Memorial Lecture

Eliot Cohen
Johns Hopkins University



"Armchair Killers "

Wednesday, May 4, 2005
12:15 p.m.

Mershon Center for International Security Studies
1501 Neil Avenue
Room 120



Lunch will be served to those who RSVP to [Ann Powers](#) no later than Friday, April 29, 2005.

What difference does it make if a political leader has experienced war himself? Does military experience among wartime leaders make them more or less bellicose? Should voters care whether or not their political leaders have had military experience?

Dr. Eliot Cohen is Robert E. Osgood Professor of Strategic Studies, Director of Strategic Studies Program and the Director of Philip Merrill Center for Strategic Studies at Johns Hopkins' Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies.

He is author of numerous articles and books, including *Supreme Command: Soldiers, Statesmen and Wartime Leadership* (2002), which won the first Huntington Prize, administered by the John M. Olin Institute for Strategic Studies at Harvard University; *War Over Kosovo*, co-editor (2001); *Knives, Tanks & Missiles: Israel's Security Revolution*, co-author (1998); *Revolution in Warfare? Air Power in the Gulf*, co-author (1995); *Gulf War Air Power Survey*, editor (1993); *Military Misfortunes: The Anatomy of Failure in 20th Century Warfare*, co-author (1990); *Citizens and Soldiers: The Dilemmas of Military Service* (1985); *Commandos and Politicians: Elite Military Units in Modern Democracies* (1978); numerous articles.

Joseph J. Kruzel

Dr. Joseph Kruzel served as a member of the Mershon Center's senior faculty and as Associate Professor of Political Science from 1983 until his death in 1995. He was a 1967 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and also held Master and Doctoral degrees from Harvard University. Professor Kruzel was killed in Sarajevo, Bosnia, while serving an appointment as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for European and NATO Affairs.

President William J. Clinton memorialized Kruzel in this fashion: "Joseph Kruzel put his mind to the test of creating lasting security in a world that's known too much war. Besides his outstanding work in Bosnia, he led the Pentagon's efforts on critical issues of NATO enlargement and the re-integration of Eastern Europe into the West after the Cold War. His service to our country spans 28 years, from an Air Force officer in Vietnam, to work on Salt 1, to being a major force in bringing the nations of Europe into the Partnership for Peace. The world is a more secure place because of his dedication."

To honor the life, work, and memory of Professor Kruzel, the Mershon Center hosts the Joseph J. Kruzel Memorial Lecture each year.

This talk is part of a quarter-long series arranged by Geoffrey Parker around the theme of *"Loving War," and is offered as a graduate seminar (HST 767). The syllabus, including each speaker's recommended readings, is available [here](#).*

About the Series:

Many cultures today and in the past see war as good and so build up cadres of killers that threaten the security and stability of their neighbors. This asymmetry raises many issues:

- How are such cadres of killers found and trained; what motivates them; to what extent do they draw on tradition and to what extent do they forge their own? That is: do they kill because that is what their culture expects or because it works?
- Do cultures that embrace war as good have any distinctive characteristics?
- To what extent is a warrior culture natural or universal? To what extent do individual societies promote, shape, control and suppress the instinct to "love war"?
- What connects and what divides the warrior's understanding of fighting as a heroic individual pursuit and the state's conception of war as protective public policy?
- Do all societies understand, observe and enforce that distinction? If not, is the distinction a hallmark of "civilization" or "modernity"?
- What happens when this distinction is not honored?
- Above all, do the killers "just do it" or do they actually enjoy killing?

Upcoming Events:

April 6, 2005: [Nicola DiCosmo](#)
April 13, 2005: [Karl Friday](#)
April 20, 2005: [Thomas Kuehne](#)
April 27, 2005: [Robert H. Pape](#)
May 4: [Eliot Cohen](#)
May 11: [Peter A. Fritzsche](#)
May 18, 2005: [Barry Strauss](#)
May 25, 2005: [N.A.M. Rodger](#)



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He is a prominent voice in the Department of Defense, where he has served as a member of the Defense Policy Board, was Director of the National Security Leadership Course and served on the Policy Planning Staff for the Office of the Secretary of Defense. He also directed the U.S. Air Force's Gulf War Air Power Survey. He is a regular consultant to the Pentagon on security matters.

He is author of numerous articles and books, including *Supreme Command: Soldiers, Statesmen and Wartime Leadership* (2002), which won the first Huntington Prize, administered by the John M. Olin Institute for Strategic Studies at Harvard University; *War Over Kosovo*, co-editor (2001); *Knives, Tanks & Missiles: Israel's Security Revolution*, co-author (1998); *Revolution in Warfare? Air Power in the Gulf*, co-author (1995); *Gulf War Air Power Survey*, editor (1993); *Military Misfortunes: The Anatomy of Failure in 20th Century Warfare*, co-author (1990); *Citizens and Soldiers: The Dilemmas of Military Service* (1985); *Commandos and Politicians: Elite Military Units in Modern Democracies* (1978); numerous articles. Prior to joining the faculty at Johns Hopkins, Cohen taught at Harvard and the U.S. Army War College.